



VINTON COUNTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO REQUIRE MASKING

With over 200 students in quarantine, the district updates its masking policy.

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N-Y WINS TVC CLASH

Buckeyes down Bulldogs in volleyball

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The Athens Messenger

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3 THINGS TO KNOW

1 September is National Preparedness Month

National Preparedness Month (NPM) is recognized annually in September to encourage family and community disaster planning for not only a month, but every day, throughout the year. This year also marks the 20th anniversary of 9/11, where a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks against the United States took place on American soil on September 11, 2001.

This year's theme for National Preparedness Month is: "Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love."

2 Jacksonville Old Settler's Festival reunion begins Thursday

The Old Settler's Festival reunion begins Sept. 2, at 5 p.m. on S. 6th St. in Jacksonville. Thursday will feature the little miss Old Settler's talent show, opening ceremonies, and a bike parade as well as karaoke.

3 Victory in Japan Day

On Sept. 2, 1945, aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan formally surrenders to the Allies, bringing an end to World War II. The surrender, previously thought impossible due to Japanese fervor, but was achieved following the detonation of two atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

YOUR WEATHER



THURSDAY 76 FRIDAY 76

OBITUARIES

Kathleen Gierhart
Audrey McAfoos
Delores Jean Welch Mayle
Richard Mitchell
Garry W. Reynolds
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SUBSCRIBER OF THE DAY

We appreciate our subscriber of the day, Carlos Nicholson of Athens!



Ohio University announced vaccine requirement for all students, staff and faculty

BY EMMA WILSON
For The Messenger

Ohio University announced Tuesday that all staff, students and faculty will be required to be vaccinated by November amid a surge of coronavirus cases as the Delta variant spreads through the country.

Students, faculty and staff will have until Nov. 15 to submit proof of vaccination to participate in spring semester activities, the release said.

The release also stated that there will be an opportunity

to apply for exemption from the vaccination for medical reasons or for reasons of conscience, including ethical and moral belief or sincerely held religious beliefs.

The announcement follows numerous other private and public universities that have moved to mandate vaccinations following the FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine last month.

Ohio University President Hugh Sherman, in the statement, after consultation with public health experts and

other academic institutions throughout the state, the university has decided to implement a vaccine requirement for all students, faculty and staff.

"Our commitment is to provide our students with the most normal college experience possible, but the reality is that as a nation, we are not as far as we hoped we would be in battling the pandemic," Sherman said.

Ohio University will recognize the following vaccines under this policy:

- Pfizer (two dose)
- Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (one dose)
- Moderna (two dose)
- Vaccines currently approved under a WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL)

Students, faculty and staff will register proof of vaccination through the COVID-19 Testing Pathway Program.

Sherman said in the statement that if booster shots are recommended for use, the university will update the policy to reflect current guidance.

Cruise In and a Shake



MESSANGER PHOTO BY JOHN HALLEY

Somehow, Steak and Shake on East State Street in Athens makes the perfect backdrop for a classic car cruise-in. There were lots of cars, lots of spectators and lots of milkshakes at this Plains Lion's Club event on Friday. There was quite a diverse assortment of vehicles represented here. The oldest car was a 1913 Model T Ford, sometimes called a Tin Lizzie. Pictured here is 1990 super sleek Corvette owned by Earl Williard. The sign says: "Yes it's fast, No you can't drive it."

Ohio recognizes first ever Overdose Awareness Day

BY ALEX HULVALCHICK
Messenger Editor

Ohio marked the first official Ohio Overdose Awareness Day on Aug. 31, 2021 with substance abuse and mental health organizations expressing gratitude for the move and politicians touting the importance of understanding substance abuse.

The day was first recognized in Australia in 2001 and symbolically takes place the day before National Recovery Month begins. This year is the first that Ohio recognized the day, following the signing of bill by Gov. Mike DeWine in early June.

DeWine ordered the flags of the United States and Ohio be half-staff in honor of the lives lost to overdose and to raise awareness for the issue. In a statement, he encouraged all Ohioans to consider carrying naloxone, a drug used to treat opioid overdose, to help potentially save a life.

"Naloxone has proven to save lives," said DeWine. "By getting it

into the hands of communities and groups across the state in areas that are experiencing the most overdoses and deaths, we are putting this life-saving opportunity where it is needed most."

Gubernatorial hopeful and current mayor of Dayton Nan Whaley issued a statement as well, stressing that we remember the lives lost to addiction and highlighting the city's role as one of the first to file suit against the drug companies that supercharged the opioid crisis.

Marissa McDaid, communications and community engagement specialist at the Athens County 317 Board, said the group is excited to see the day recognized in Ohio.

"It's really meaningful to have such a prominent problem finally be acknowledged and know that both state and local governments are working towards supporting people and letting them know that recovery is an option," said McDaid.

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DeWine, Hoagland, discuss veteran mental health during press conference

BY COLE BEHRENS
Messenger Assistant Editor

State leaders, including Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and state Sen. Frank Hoagland, R-Mingo Junction, held a press conference Tuesday to advocate for increased mental health awareness for veterans.

This comes as Ohio mourns the loss of Max Saviak, Navy medic and Cleveland-area native, who was among the 13 U.S. service members killed Thursday in Kabul in a bombing attack over the weekend.

DeWine expressed his sorrow for his sacrifice

at the conference, during which he and others discussed programs available to veterans who need an extra hand in dealing with trauma from their experiences in the service.

"We are here today to express our deepest sympathy for those lost and reinforce our support for the military," DeWine said.

He said the recent developments in Afghanistan might reopen fresh wounds for many veterans of the 20-year struggle.

SEE HEALTH ON PAGE A3

Driver dies in single-vehicle crash, vehicle erupts in flames

FROM STAFF REPORTS

A person died early Wednesday morning in a single-vehicle crash at the intersection of Stimson Avenue and Rock Riffle Road in Athens, after being engulfed in flames.

On Sept. 1, around 4 a.m., troopers from the Athens Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol responded to the report of a single vehicle fatal crash on Rock Riffle Road, at the intersection of Stimson Avenue, a press release said. The vehicle was completely engulfed in flames when first responders arrived

at the crash scene.

A 2015 Volkswagen GTI was traveling north on Rock Riffle Road when it drove through the intersection of Stimson Avenue, off the left side of the roadway, struck a sign post and struck a piece of construction equipment, the release said. The Volkswagen and piece of construction equipment then became engulfed in flames.

Alcohol and unsafe speed are suspected contributing factors in this crash, the release said. This crash remains under investigation.



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